

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER¹ The Papou Study Bible is a daily study provided by me to



help folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis) never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t. This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths the beautiful way Greek enables you to view. And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*

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Christ IN You Series

Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)

²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory

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Daniel 5 Part 1²

So rulers changed, but Daniel’s relevance to the kingdom stays the same. And it seems like the successor to Nebuchadnezzar was still “victim” to Nebuchadnezzar’s megalomania. Instead of learning the lessons Nebuchadnezzar taught in Daniel 4, he committed the mistakes of pride and hubris and arrogance. And there would be a price to pay.

I love these time honored stories, especially ones like this that has given our culture verbal “cultural icons” (like “he saw the handwriting on the wall”). Oh, I hope that the youth of today realize their Scriptural foundations. I pray they come to know the One who inspired them! Enjoy!

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² New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

The Writing on the Wall

5 King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them.

Belshazzar was Nebuchadnezzar's successor. His name means "Bel" protects the king." I guess the god "Bel" was still big in this kingdom (remember, Daniel's new name was "Bel-teshazzar"), the name of Nebuchadnezzar's "god." The NIV study note says he was the son and viceroy of Nabonidus. Here is the path of succession according to the NIV Bible study notes.

Nebuchadnezzar I – 605 – 562

Amel-Marduk – 562 – 560

Nabonidus – 556-539

Belshazzar (Coregency with Nabonidus – 553 (?) - 539

²While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father^{or his "Ancestor" or his "predecessor"]} had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

³So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. ⁴As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

What an act of hubris. What an act of arrogance. To worship the false gods with the objects that had been dedicated to the One True God. God sees these things. God reacts. God acts. Notice:

⁵**Suddenly** the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. ⁶His face turned pale and he was

Proverbs 29:1 New International Version (NIV)
29 Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will **suddenly** be destroyed—without remedy.

so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking.

The NIV says his “loins were loosened.” He “soiled himself” is the way the CSB translates it. He was scared.

(CLV) Dn 5:6

Then, as for the king, his mien was altered on him, ⁺for his ruminations ^lflustered him; ⁺ the ligaments of his loins were loosened^l, and his knees were knocking one [’]against the other.

⁷The king summoned the enchanters, astrologers^(b) and diviners. Then he said to these wise men of Babylon, “Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

That is what tempts the world. Clothing, gold, and power are the “rewards” of “Babylon.” But as you will see, not for Daniel.

⁸Then all the king’s wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant. ⁹So King Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale. His nobles were baffled.

¹⁰The queen,^(c) hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. “May the king live forever!” she said. “Don’t be alarmed! Don’t look so pale! ¹¹There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him.

That is the one consistent testimony about Daniel. Originally, Nebuchadnezzar was told by his other advisors this:

Daniel 2:11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it ^(a)to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with *mortal* flesh.”

But the God of Israel was different. His Spirit did very frequently come upon “flesh.”

Judges 3:10

And the **Spirit** of the LORD **came** upon him, and he judged Israel. When he went to war, the LORD handed over to him Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.

Judges 11:29

[*Jephthah's Tragic Vow*] Now the **Spirit** of the LORD **came** upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh; then he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he went on to the sons of Ammon.

Judges 15:14

When he **came** to Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. And the **Spirit** of the LORD rushed upon him so that the ropes that were on his arms were like flax that has burned with fire, and his restraints dropped from his hands.

The Spirit of God did "come upon" the Israelites. And apparently, Daniel was similarly gifted! They thought it was "the" spirit of the gods was "in" him! But we know Who He was!

Daniel 4:8	Daniel 4:9	Daniel 4:18	Daniel 5:14
Finally, Daniel came into my presence and . . . the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)	I said, "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you.	"This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."	I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom.

Notice what the Spirit gave him. And notice the CLV speaks of a "stream of light" and intelligence and wisdom of the "Elohim" coming out of him.

In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods.

- Insight
- Intelligence
- Wisdom

(CLV) Dn 5:11

There is a master in your kingdom in ^twhom there is the spirit of the holy elohim; and in the days of your grandfather a stream of light and intelligence and wisdom, like the wisdom of the elohim, was found in him. ⁺ *King Nebuchadnezzar your grandfather set him up as grandee of the sacred scribes, the magi, the Chaldeans and the hieromancers^l; so did your grandfather, *O king,

Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. ¹²He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.”

(CLV) Dn 5:12

forasmuch as an excelling spirit, ⁺ knowledge and intelligence in the interpreting of dreams, ⁺ the disclosure of problems and the untying of knots was found in him, that is in Daniel to ^twhom the king ^{lpl}assigned his name Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be called ⁺that he may disclose the interpretation.

Let’s list Daniel’s attributes as seen by others.

Attributes in NIV	Attributes in CLV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a keen mind • knowledge • understanding • the ability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to interpret dreams ○ explain riddles ○ solve difficult problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An excelling spirit • Knowledge • Intelligence in the interpreting of dreams • The disclosure of problems. • The untying of knots

¹³So Daniel was brought before the king,

Notice. He didn’t “put” himself there. He was “brought before” the kings.

and the king said to him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah? ¹⁴I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom.

I’ve always enjoyed this concept in the text box Scripture. The source of this knowledge was because of his meditation on God’s

Psalm 119:99

I have **more** understanding **than** all **my teachers**: for thy testimonies are **my** meditation.

testimonies. The word translated “meditation” and it’s roots are in the table that follows.

<p>H7881 siychah see-khaw'</p> <p>feminine of H7879;</p> <p>reflection; be extension, devotion.</p> <p>KJV: meditation, prayer.</p>	<p>H7879 siyach see'-akh</p> <p>from H7878;</p> <p>a contemplation; by implication, an utterance.</p> <p>KJV: babbling, communication, complaint, meditation, prayer, talk.</p>	<p>H7878 siyach see'-akh</p> <p>a primitive root;</p> <p>to ponder, i.e. (by implication) converse (with oneself, and hence, aloud) or (transitively) utter.</p> <p>KJV: commune, complain, declare, meditate, muse, pray, speak, talk (with).</p>
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¹⁵The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it. ¹⁶Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

The CLV translates what Daniel was able to do as “interpret interpretations” and to “untie difficult knots.”

So we’ll pick up here next time.